

Child Protection Policy

Spixworth Amateur Players (SAPs)

1. Introduction

Spixworth Amateur Players (SAPs) recognises its duty of care under child protection legislation, including the Children and Young Persons Act, Child Performance Regulations, and relevant safeguarding laws.

We understand that abuse can take many forms — physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect. SAPs is committed to practices that protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm.

This policy applies to all members and anyone working on behalf of SAPs.

2. Our Commitment

- Children, young people, and vulnerable adults must never experience abuse of any kind.
- The welfare of the child is paramount.
- All suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon swiftly.
- It is **not the role of SAPs to decide whether abuse has occurred** — but it is everyone's responsibility to share concerns with the **Designated Safeguarding Officer**.
- In this policy, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.

3. Purpose of the Policy

- To protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults involved in SAPs activities.
- To provide members with clear safeguarding principles and responsibilities.
- To ensure SAPs promotes welfare, safety, and respect at all times.

4. Principles

SAPs believes that:

- All children, regardless of age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, religious beliefs, or sexual identity, have the right to protection from abuse.
- All members must show respect for one another and behave appropriately.

- Bullying, inappropriate behaviour, or negative criticism will not be tolerated.
- Children should be empowered to share in decision-making where appropriate.
- Adult members must act as positive role models.

5. Safeguarding Practice

SAPs will ensure that:

- All children are treated equally, with dignity and respect.
- Duty of care is always put first.
- Constructive feedback is given instead of negative criticism.
- Action is taken to stop inappropriate verbal or physical behaviour.
- Policies remain up to date with safeguarding and health & safety legislation.
- Members undertake relevant safeguarding training.
- A register of every child involved is maintained, with emergency contact details stored securely in line with GDPR.

6. Procedures

- SAPs has safeguarding procedures that accompany this policy.
- A dedicated **Designated Safeguarding Officer** is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and procedures.
- The policy will be monitored by the Committee and reviewed annually.

Designated Safeguarding Officer – Andrew Blaxter

Approved 30th January 2026